The Municipal Council have so far not agreed by a resolution to meet 50 per cent of the cost of Rs. 11,181-11-0.

Enlarging Forest Area.

Q.—229. **Sri V. M. MASCARENHAS** (St. John's Hill).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) the area covered by forests in the State and its percentage to the total area;

(*b*) whether it is their policy to increase this area;

(*c*) if so, the steps that are being taken to implement this policy?

A.—**Sri T. CHANNIAH** (Minister for Public Health and Local Self-Government).—

(*a*) 4,704·64 square miles. The total area is just about 15 per cent of the land area of the State.

(*b*) and (*c*) Though the percentage of Forests to land area in the State is far below the accepted international standard of 25 per cent, the scope of enlarging the area is very limited as almost all the wooded lands in Malnad leaving out enough for the ryots to exercise their rights under Malnad Raiyats' Special Privileges Rules have already been reserved. There is also stout organised opposition in maidan areas by the raiyats for bringing any lands under reservation. On the other hand, the number of applications for disafforesting even the existing areas for cultivation is on the increase of late, and in view of the "Grow More Food" campaign and the food scarcity, such applications are being carefully scrutinised and action is being taken to reserve as much of the wooded area adjoining the notified State Forests as possible. To supplement the natural forests, artificial plantations of fuel species are being raised on a large scale round about Bangalore under "Post War Development Scheme" and fuel and teak plantations are also being raised yearly in all important State forests to intensify the forest growth.

Reservation of Posts for Backward Class Citizens.

Q.—283. **Sri M. MADIAH** (Nanjangud—Scheduled Castes).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) whether they have made any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which in their opinion is not adequately represented in the services under the State (Mysore) as declared in the Article 16 (4) of the Indian Constitution;

(*b*) the names of the backward communities which come under the above backward classes of citizens;

(*c*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, the names of the communities which in their opinion are not adequately represented;

(*d*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, the reasons as to why such provision has not yet been made?

A.—**Sri Kadidal MANJAPPA** (Minister for Revenue and Public Works).—

(*a*) The existing procedure of reserving 75 per cent of the direct recruitment vacancies for the backward classes is being continued and no separate orders have been passed under Article 16(4).

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) The Government of India have not yet constituted a backward classes commission and the subject of changing the rules regarding the reservation for backward classes is under the consideration of Government.

Communities included in Amildari List.

Q.—285. **Sri M. MADIAH** (Nanjangud—Scheduled Castes).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) the total number of persons included in the Amildari list;

(*b*) the total number of persons belonging to the different communities in the list (community war figures may be furnished)?